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and cultivators of land in order that the consumers may secure their products more cheaply.

The practice of "buying in the cheapest market" is characterized as a form of absenteeism in industry which injures the industrial population, in that it deprives them of a larger sum in wages than the amount they save by purchasing cheaply. The objection that protection may simply result in a diversion of labor from a more profitable industry to one less profitable is met by an assertion that there will be more work to do than before the new industries were commenced, and that there must, therefore, be an increased demand for labor and larger sums to be distributed in wages.

The author, who is urging a return to the old system of protective duties on grain (though he makes no reference to the bitter Corn Law agitation) and on all articles which could be produced in the United Kingdom, concludes by complaining that the state at present is not managed in the interest of its citizens, but rather to conform to the opinions of "theoretical doctrinaires in economic science."

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WORSFOLD, W. B. *The Union of South Africa.* Pp. ix, 530. Price, \$3.00. Boston: Little, Brown & Co., 1913.

Among the many excellent works dealing with the British colonies, this description of the latest union within the empire stands in the first rank. Mr. Worsfold first discusses the physical characteristics of the country, now being overcome to an extent which surprises even those who have seen its many sudden transformations. Nowhere have modern engineering and medicine performed more remarkable feats than here.

Three chapters on the historical connection between South Africa and Europe introduce the discussion of the present form of government. This portion of the work is written with clearness and contains a number of instructive and valuable comparisons with political institutions of other countries. The effort to secure the advantages and avoid the defects developed elsewhere is well discussed.

Next are treated Rhodesia and the native territories. The account of the work of the British South Africa Company especially during recent years in the building of railroads, now extending over one hundred miles into the Congo Free State, in maintaining order, encouraging agriculture and in the financing of their work, shows what exceptional success has attended the use of private initiative as a means for forwarding governmental policies.

For most of his readers doubtless the latter half of the author's book is the more interesting. The industrial development and the social and political conditions bear so strong a contrast to development elsewhere that they make South Africa a colony without a parallel. Curiously though the object of original settlement four centuries ago was to provide a victualing station, South Africa to-day does not raise sufficient foodstuffs to supply her own wants. South Africa, especially the Transvaal, to which the majority of European immigration is now

directed, depends for her prosperity on gold and diamonds which form almost eighty per cent of her exports and are the basis of both public and private income. Thirty-four per cent of the world's gold production came from the Transvaal in 1910. In diamond production all other countries are negligible but the amount put on the market is limited to the demand. On the average stones to the value of \$25,000,000 yearly are sold, two-thirds going to the United States. But agriculture is making a beginning which it is hoped will make the country a factor in the world's trade in cotton, wool, meats, hides, wine, sugar, tea, tobacco and fruit.

Extensive aid is given by the state to agriculture, communications and education. The state railways yield profits of over \$16,000,000 after paying interest on the investment in a country only starting on its development. Education has been aided by large bequests and the provision of schools for the white population is excellent. Immigration, the great need of the country, is now receiving increased attention from the government.

Mr. Worsfold has given us one of the best written analyses of South African conditions. It is one of the most valuable of recent books on the British overseas possessions.

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